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## 20. A FLOURISHING COLONY OF *COPTOTERMES HEIMI* (WASM.) (INSECTA : ISOPTERA) IN A NAVAL BOAT

*Coptotermes heimi* is a serious wood-destroying termite of India (Sen-Sarma *et al.* 1975). It attacks timber structures in building, wooden poles, posts, timbers used in wooden bridges and wood lying in the open. It occurs throughout the Indian subcontinent. It has also been recorded as an introduced species in some parts of South-East Asia (Lever 1952; Gay 1969).

Species of the genus *Coptotermes* normally live in subterranean colonies and maintain soil connection for their sustenance. However, instances are on record where fully established colonies (without, maintaining soil connections) of some species of *Coptotermes* have been reported (Mathur & Sen-Sarma 1959; Sen-Sarma *et al.* 1975). The present note records the establishment of a flourishing colony of *Coptotermes heimi* in a Naval Boat, Bombay without maintaining soil connection. The colony comprised of a primary queen, workers, soldiers and nymphs. This seems to be

the first record of a colony of *Coptotermes heimi* in a naval boat in India which remains on the high sea most of the time. The presence of the primary queen leads to the conclusion that the colony was established by the swarming alates presumably during the period when the boat was docked in a dry dock. As the alates are weak fliers, successful landing of alates in the boat in the high sea is ruled out. Subsequent availability of food, regular source of moisture and other factors were conducive for the establishment of a viable colony. This discovery is important in many respects. It indicates that a colony of *C. heimi* can survive without maintaining soil connection provided a source of moisture is available. It also shows that this species of termites can pose serious problems in sea vessels and is capable of being introduced to other geographical regions. The colony was collected by the Naval Metallurgical Laboratory, Bombay to whom our thanks are due.

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21. ON THE EULITTORAL PALAEMONID SHRIMP (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA) OF VISAKHAPATNAM COAST

(With a text-figure)

During a visit to the Ramakrishna Beach of Visakhapatnam, on March 23, 1977, a few shrimps were observed lurking beneath some semi-exposed rocks. In all, four shrimps were collected and after noting the colour, preserved. Again, on April 20, 1977 the same species of shrimp was collected from the rock-pools of Bimilipatnam coast (25 km north of Visakhapatnam).

The shrimps were identified as *Palaemon* (*Palaemon*) *belindae* (Kemp, 1925). This species was originally described by Kemp (1925) as *Leander belindae*, based on specimens from Kilakarai (Gulf of Mannar) and Cape Comorin. Holthuis (1950) defined the genus *Palaemon* Fabricius and included Kemp's *belindae* under the nominate subgenus *Palaemon*. To date, *P. (P.) belindae* does not appear to have been recorded beyond the type-locality. Although Kemp's original description is excellent, some supplementary notes and illustrations are given here.

Of the nine specimens, seven are females (all five belonging to the April 20, 1977

sample are ovigerous) and two are males. Measurements of the largest specimen (♀): body length 37.0 mm, carapace length 8.0 mm and rostrum length 6.0 mm; correspond-

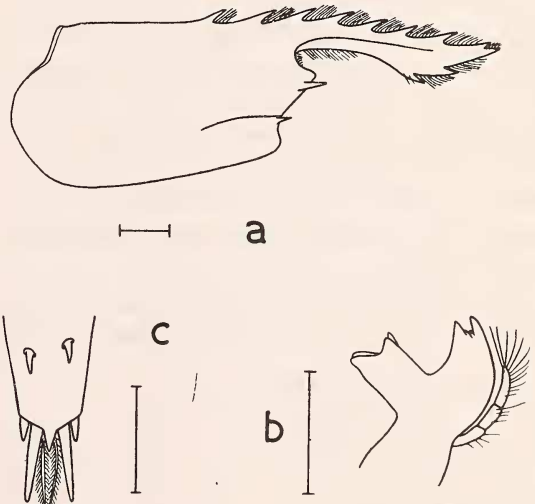


Fig. 1. *Palaemon* (*Palaemon*) *belindae* (Kemp, 1925). a. carapace and rostrum; b. mandible; c. distal part of telson. (Scale = 1.0 mm).